In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 9-14, 19, 22-28, 35 and 40-44 as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for negotiating improved terms ~~of sale~~ for a product or service being purchased ~~over the~~ <u>using an</u> Internet <u>web site</u>, the method comprising:

using one or more computers to perform:

receiving information indicating one or more default ~~purchasing~~ standards for a purchaser ~~using an Internet web site to purchase said product or service~~, <u>wherein said default standards specify product or service characteristics that are preferred by said purchaser</u>;

detecting an issuance of a commitment to purchase<u>, by said purchaser, said product or service according to initial</u> ~~with associated~~ terms <u>of sale</u> ~~for said product or service being purchased by the purchaser using the Internet web site~~;

making an offer to said purchaser [[for]] <u>to</u> negotiate<u>[[ing]]</u> said improved terms <u>of sale for said product or service</u> within a specified <u>amount of</u> time;

in response to said purchaser accepting said offer:

~~conducting a search for said improved terms within said specified time;~~

~~receiving information regarding a plurality of offers for said product or service;~~

~~rejecting one or more of the plurality of offers based on the default~~

~~purchasing standards; and~~

searching for sale offers for said product or service;

comparing terms of sale for sale offers located from said searching to said initial terms of sale and to said default standards; and

based on said comparing, presenting one of the ~~plurality of~~ sale offers located from said searching to the purchaser, wherein the presented sale offer includes said improved terms of sale and meets said default standards;

wherein said searching, comparing and presenting occur within said specified amount of time.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting said purchaser entering a credit card number, a pre-paid account number, a gift certificate number, an escrow account number, or a bank guaranty number.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting said purchaser viewing a particular web page.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting said purchaser accessing a particular URL.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises detecting said purchaser clicking an icon to confirm order.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said making an offer to said purchaser comprises displaying said offer on a screen of a computer ~~system~~ used by said purchaser to purchase said product or service over the Internet.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising executing said commitment to purchase.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said commitment to purchase comprises a purchase order for which payment has been guaranteed by said purchaser.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said improved terms of sale comprise a better price, ~~or a better~~ delivery, ~~or a better~~ warranty, or ~~a better~~ return policy ~~compared to the terms associated with said commitment to purchase~~ than said initial terms of sale.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said making an offer to said purchaser comprises:

reading information associated with said commitment to purchase;

determining if said commitment to purchase represents an area of interest for an improved terms of sale service provider;

if commitment to purchase represents an area of interest for said improved terms of sale service provider:

making said offer to said purchaser.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~conducting~~ said searching for sale offers for said product or service ~~improved terms~~ comprises conducting

an auction amongst a plurality of suppliers for said product <u>or service</u>.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising entering a legal contract with said purchaser to supply said product <u>or service</u> under said improved terms <u>of sale</u>.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~conducting~~ said searching for <u>sale offers for</u> said <u>product or service</u> ~~improved terms~~ comprises searching a database of preferred suppliers for said product <u>or service</u>.

14. (Currently amended) A system for negotiating improved terms <u>of sale</u> for a product or service being purchased over a computer network, the system comprising:

a computer program;

a web site server computer ~~system~~;

wherein said computer program is executable on a client computer ~~system~~ by a purchaser to connect with the web site server and <u>wherein said computer program is further executable to</u> detect an issuance of a commitment to purchase<u>, by said purchaser, said product or service according to initial</u> ~~with associated~~ terms <u>of sale</u> ~~for said product or service~~; and

wherein the web site server is operable to:

receive information indicating one or more default ~~purchasing~~ standards for the purchaser<u>, wherein said default standards specify product or service characteristics that are preferred by said purchaser</u>;

receive a notification ~~about~~ <u>indicating</u> said issuance of said commitment to purchase;

make an offer to said purchaser [[for]] to negotiate[[ing]] improved terms of sale for said product or service within a specified amount of time; and

in response to said purchaser accepting said offer:

~~conducting a search for said improved terms within said specified time;~~

~~receiving information regarding a plurality of offers for said product or service within said specified time;~~

~~rejecting one or more of the plurality of offers based on the default purchasing standards; and~~

searching for sale offers for said product or service;

comparing terms of sale for sale offers located from said searching to said initial terms of sale and said default standards; and

based on said comparing, presenting one of the ~~plurality of~~ sale offers located from said searching to the purchaser, wherein the presented sale offer includes said improved terms of sale and meets said default standards;

wherein said searching, comparing and presenting occur within said specified amount of time.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said computer program is configured to detect the issuance of the commitment to purchase by detecting said

purchaser entering a credit card number or a pre-paid account number or a gift certificate number.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said computer program is configured to detect the issuance of the commitment to purchase by detecting said purchaser viewing a particular web page.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said computer program is configured to detect the issuance of the commitment to purchase by detecting said purchaser accessing a particular URL.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said computer program is configured to detect the issuance of the commitment to purchase by detecting said purchaser clicking an icon to confirm order.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said web site server is configured to make the offer to said purchaser by displaying said offer on a screen of a computer ~~system~~ used by said purchaser to purchase said product <u>or service</u> over the Internet.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the computer program is configured to execute said commitment to purchase.

21. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said commitment to purchase comprises a purchase order for which payment has been guaranteed by said purchaser.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said improved terms <u>of sale</u> comprise one or more of the following: a better price, a better delivery, a better warranty, or a better return policy~~, as compared to the terms associated with said commitment to purchase~~ <u>than said initial terms of sale</u>.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said web server is configured to make the offer to said purchaser by:

reading information associated with the commitment to purchase;

determining if the commitment to purchase represents an area of business interest for an improved terms of sale service provider; and

if the commitment to purchase represents an area of interest for said improved terms of sale service provider, then making said offer to said purchaser.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein ~~conducting~~ said searching for sale offers for said product or service ~~improved terms~~ comprises conducting an auction amongst a plurality of suppliers for said product or service.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the web site server is operable to enter into a legal contract with said purchaser to supply said product or service under said improved terms.

26. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein conducting said search for said improved terms comprises searching a database of preferred suppliers for said product or service.

27. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said client computer ~~system~~ is one or more of the following: a personal computer, a laptop computer, a notebook computer, an Internet-enabled cellular phone, an Internet-enabled personal digital assistant, or an Internet-enabled television.

28. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium~~, comprising~~ storing program instructions~~, wherein the program instructions are~~ executable by a computer ~~system~~ to implement the method of claim 1.

29. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:

using one or more computers to perform:

detecting an action by a purchaser that indicates that the purchaser is about to make an original purchase for a particular item or service over the Internet for a particular price;

determining that the purchaser agrees to wait a predetermined amount of time in exchange for a possibility of securing a better price for said particular item or service;

searching for said better price for said particular item or service;

if said better price is found before said predetermined amount of time expires, purchasing the particular item or service for the purchaser at the better price and charging the purchaser a new price between said particular price and said better price; and

if said better price is not found before said predetermined amount of time expires, executing the original purchase for the particular item or service over the Internet for the particular price.

30. (Original) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein if said original purchase is not available after said searching is complete, purchasing said particular item for said purchaser at another price and charging the purchaser said particular price.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said detecting comprises detecting said purchaser entering a credit card number or a pre-paid account number or a gift certificate number.

32. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said detecting comprises detecting said purchaser viewing a particular web page.

33. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said detecting comprises detecting said purchaser accessing a particular URL.

34. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said detecting comprises detecting said purchaser clicking an icon to confirm order.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising offering said purchaser an opportunity to enter into an alternative contract and displaying said alternative contract on a screen of a computer ~~system~~ used by said purchaser to make said original purchase over the Internet.

36. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said original purchase comprises a purchase order for which payment has been guaranteed by said purchaser.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein offering said purchaser said opportunity to enter into said alternative contract comprises:

reading information associated with said original purchase;

determining if said original purchase represents an area of interest for an alternative contract provider;

if said original purchase represents an area of interest for said alternative contract provider:

making said alternative contract to said purchaser.

38. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein searching for said better price comprises conducting an auction amongst a plurality of suppliers for said particular item.

39. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein searching for said better price comprises searching a database of preferred suppliers for said particular item.

40. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium, ~~comprising computer~~ storing program instructions executable by a computer ~~configured~~ to implement the method of claim 29.

41. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

using one or more computers to perform:

detecting an action by a purchaser that indicates that the purchaser is about to make an original purchase for a particular item or service over the Internet for a particular price;

intercepting a message over the internet to delay said purchase for a predetermined amount of time, wherein the message includes commitment-to-purchase information for the purchaser regarding the item or service;

searching for a better price for said particular item or service;

if said better price is found before said predetermined amount of time expires, purchasing the particular item or service for the purchaser at the better price and charging the purchaser a new price between said particular price and said better price; and

if said better price is not found before said predetermined amount of time expires, executing the original purchase for the particular item or service over the Internet for the particular price.

42.   (Currently amended)   A computer-readable storage medium, ~~comprising computer~~ storing program instructions executable by a computer ~~configured~~ to implement the method of claim 41.

43.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein said making an offer comprises contacting said purchaser with a confirmation of said product or service purchase.

44.   (Currently amended)   A method, comprising:

using one or more computers to perform:

    detecting an action by a purchaser that indicates that the purchaser is making an original purchase for a particular item or service over the Internet for a particular price;

    accessing a broker-agent web site for seeking a better price for said particular item or service within a predetermined amount of time, where said seeking a better price comprises a plurality of broker-agent programs performing multiple searches in parallel for said better price;

    if said better price is found before said predetermined amount of time expires, purchasing the particular item or service for the purchaser at the better price and charging the purchaser a new price between said particular price and said better price; and

if said better price is not found before said predetermined amount of time

expires, executing the original purchase for the particular item over

the Internet for the particular price.